THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SUSHREE UMA BHARTI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news report refers to the poor quality of the statuette of the Arjuna Award given to Col. B.S. Sandhu in 1984. However, in the recent past Government has not received any complaints about the quality of statuette from any other quarter.

(c) According to the provision of the Scheme for Arjuna Award, the statuette is to be made of Bronze.

(d) News report also indicates that the statuette of Arjuna Award was taken by Col. Sandhu after a year or so. However, the Government will consider a request for replacement of the statuette in case the same is received from Col. Sandhu along with the "deteriorated" statuette.

Madarsa Board in Karnataka

*279. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any request from Karnataka Government for providing financial assistance to enable them to constitute a Madarsa Board, to equip the Madarsas to teach conventional subjects and bring the students of these Madarsas to the mainstream; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Sports Infrastructure

*280. SHRI P. N. SIVA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for lack of international level sports persons in the country :